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MANAGEMENT PLAN

May 2001

for Koksilah River Provincial Park

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Parks Division

Koksilah River Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
British Columbia Parks
South Vancouver Island District
Victoria, BC

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Koksilah River Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Don Webb, President, Koksilah Park Society
David Aldcroft, Cowichan Valley Natural History Society

Plan Highlights

Park Role Highlights

- Koksilah River Provincial Park will continue to provide a range of outdoor recreational experiences for visitors, while protecting the natural attributes of the river and its scenic surroundings.

- Where feasible, the park's boundaries will be extended to protect important natural and cultural values and to provide additional recreation opportunities. A rare pocket grassland meadow adjacent to the park will receive high priority for acquisition, either as an addition to the park or a separate ecological reserve. Existing areas within the park which do not meet park objectives will be reviewed and may be potentially available to exchange for ecologically significant lands adjacent to the park.

- It is proposed that vehicular access to the park should be modified so that through traffic will utilize Bear Creek Road, which is an existing privately owned bypass road. Renfrew Road, which runs through the park, could become gated at each end of the main section of the park to conserve the park's natural environment, and create a higher standard of safety and solitude for park visitors. If implemented, park visitors will enter and exit the park via an existing connector road between Renfrew Road and Bear Creek Road.

Natural and Cultural Values Highlights

- Work closely with Cowichan Tribes to ensure that First Nations cultural and spiritual values associated with Koksilah River Provincial Park are protected. BC Parks will encourage Cowichan Tribes to participate in the stewardship of the park.

- The park provides habitat for several endangered and vulnerable plant species and plant communities.

- The park has an attractive physical setting with high aesthetic values deserving of protection. Future management strategies will ensure that the park's sensitive ecosystem habitat and natural ambience will not be compromised.

- Park monitoring and public awareness initiatives will receive a high priority to discourage activities that degrade the natural environment. A park stewardship agreement with the Koksilah Park Society will be formalized.

Visitor Recreation Highlights

- Recreational experiences to be encouraged include nature appreciation, camping, hiking, picnicking, swimming and kayaking. Further facility development will be dependent upon the outcome of a *Recreation and Trail Plan* that will take into consideration visitor needs, environmental impact and the Vision Statement for the park. Cycling, horseback riding and fishing will continue to be permitted where appropriate. However, off-road vehicles and hunting are not appropriate activities in this park and are prohibited within the park boundaries.

- Proposed facility additions and upgrading are modest and include information signage, multi-use trails and picnic tables. Additional walk-in campsites may be added if the *Recreation and Trail Plan* supports this initiative.

- Scientific research and public education will be encouraged as they contribute to an understanding of the natural ecosystem and cultural features of the park.

Communications Highlights

- Communications will be used as a tool to instill a sense of stewardship toward the park and to strengthen partnerships with parties that have interests and goals that are compatible with those of BC Parks.

- Cooperation, collaboration and partnerships will play an increasingly important role in the cost-effective management of the park in the future. Interest groups, First Nations, other government agencies, owners of adjacent land and other stakeholders will be invited to involve themselves in the ongoing day-to-day operation of the park.

Plate 1: View of Koksilah River from Burnt Bridge

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Introduction

The Management Planning Process

A park m*anagement plan* guides the management of a park for a five to ten year term. It sets out specific objectives and strategies for conservation, recreation, interpretation and operation of the park. A *management plan* relies on a diversity of information, including park values, recreation uses, and activities occurring on surrounding lands. This information is available from park managers, discussions with representatives of other government agencies, previously prepared reports, interest groups, study teams and the general public.

The process for preparing a *management plan* involves a rigorous discussion and analysis regarding the overall goals of the park, its patterns and intensity of use, management objectives and possible sources of conflict among park policies. In choosing the most appropriate management options, the intent is to reach an optimal balance between encouraging recreational uses and ensuring conservation of natural habitat, with conservation of ecosystems and special features being of primary importance.

Management plans deal with immediate issues, outline ongoing strategies and establish long-term direction for a park. Consequently, plans generally contain numerous statements describing management strategies that need varying degrees of attention. Since BC Parks cannot carry out every task at the same time, the plan must also determine priorities for management strategies. Approval of the *management plan* is not an indication that funding is available to implement management strategies. Standard funding procedures will apply during implementation of the plan.

BC Parks prepares *management plans* with a high degree of public involvement. The general public and interest groups have opportunities to provide comments through a variety of means, including public meetings, questionnaires and local study teams.

Each section of this *management plan* for Koksilah River Provincial Park provides a brief summary of relevant background information. The report is organized into six sections:

1) The purpose of the plan, highlighting key planning issues and providing a summary of background information on the park;
2) The role of the park and its Vision Statement, describing the importance of the park and critical goals and principles that establish a long-term foundation for managing the park, including protection of park values;
3) Park zoning, defining how different areas of the park will be managed;
4) Objectives and associated strategies for protecting and managing the park's natural and cultural values;
5) Strategies for providing the general public with points of access to the park, information about the park, outdoor recreation opportunities, and management services; and
6) Priorities for implementing the *management plan*.

Background Summary

Koksilah River Provincial Park is situated on four individual parcels of land along the Koksilah River. Lands were set aside as a protected area in 1945 and 1958, and provincial park designation was granted in 1959. The 210 hectare (518 acre) park is located in the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) several kilometres northwest of the West Arm of Shawnigan Lake, and about 20 kilometres south of the city of Duncan (Figure 1). Several small settlements, including Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay, are situated to the east. The park attracts local and regional users who mainly reside in the CVRD and throughout southern Vancouver Island.

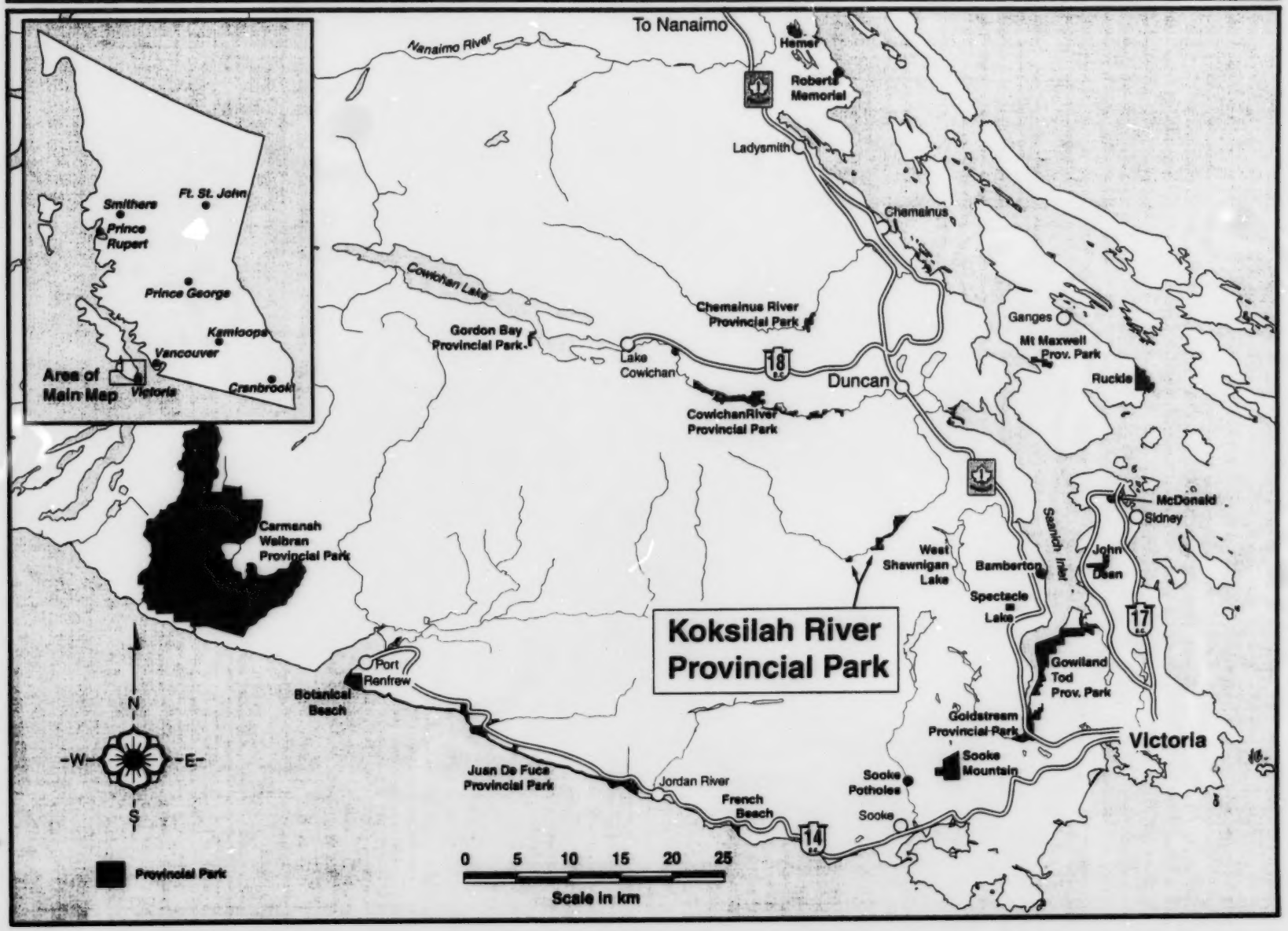
Koksilah River Provincial Park lies within Electoral Area B (Shawnigan Lake) of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD). Centred around Shawnigan Lake, this Electoral Area has 24 community parks totaling approximately 77 hectares. The 1999 estimated population of Area B was 7,200 and is expected to increase by two percent annually. The CVRD is a major participant in the Trans Canada Trail initiative program and support the preservation of a significant amount of Crown lands within their district for both conservation and recreation purposes.

This Class "A" park is situated within the rainshadow of the Insular Mountain Range in the transition of the Nanaimo Lowland Ecosection and the Leeward Island Mountains Ecosection. To the north lie the mountainous uplands of the Koksilah Ridge, and to the south, east and northeast are Shawnigan Lake and the lowlands of the Cowichan Valley. Vancouver Island's Insular Mountain Range lies to the west, and provides the water source for the river. The climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

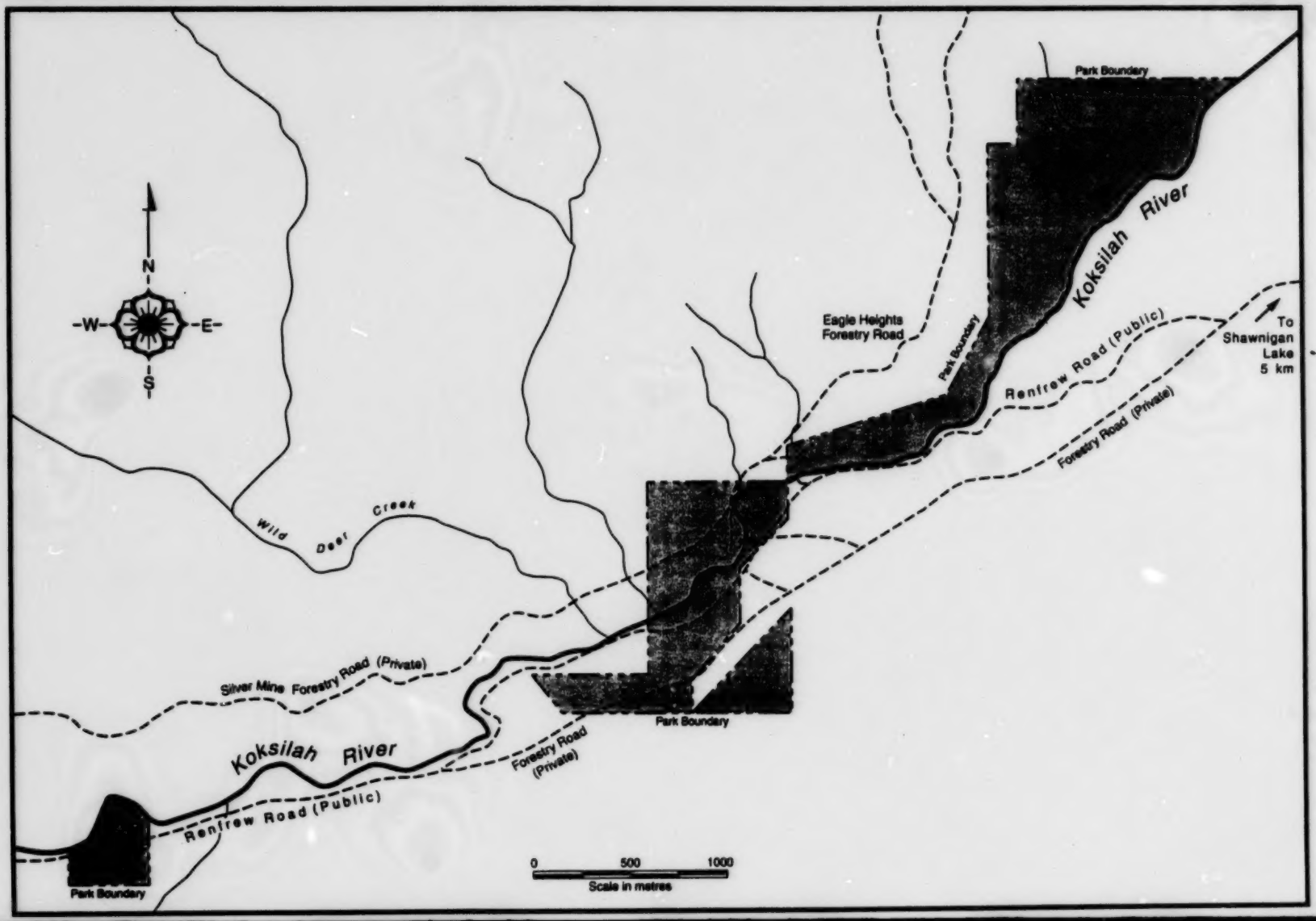
The park features include a scenic river with moderately steep banks, alternating with areas of easy access to a shoreline that is mainly rocky. There are several swimming holes, a seasonal steelhead trout fishery, small white water sections that are used by kayak enthusiasts, and limited trails. Most recreational activity occurs in and emanates from the vicinity of "Burnt Bridge" (Figure 2). The current bridge is the third bridge at this location, and was constructed in 1948. In 1997, BC Parks with FRBC Recreation Program funding, restored and revegetated the campground area located immediately northeast of the bridge, which now includes 10 walk-in tent sites, a 15 space gravel parking lot, two pit toilets and an information kiosk.

The Koksilah River area has historically been a popular site for camping, motor biking, cycling and a variety of outdoor recreational activities, including fishing and hunting although the park is closed to hunting.

Koksilah River Provincial Park - Regional Context - BC Parks



Koksilah River Provincial Park - Park Map



BC Parks has improved the park facilities and overall conditions in Koksilah River Provincial Park over the past five years. With the introduction of a Park Facility Operator (PFO) in recent years there has been a reduction in rowdy behaviour, vandalism, tree cutting (for firewood), mushroom harvesting, dumping of refuse, illegal use of firearms, lighting fires and camping in undesignated areas. However, with limited park staffing and funding resources, the current levels of service compromise the park's integrity as it cannot meet the increased demands and year round pressures from park users.

BC Parks has the support of the local government, adjacent private land owners and interest groups in following through with these initiatives, which have resulted in positive changes to the usage of Koksilah River Provincial Park and adjacent lands.

More recently BC Parks has made the following changes:

- Installed directional signs to increase awareness of this provincial park.
- Added signage to more clearly define park boundaries and facilities.
- Installed a gate at Burnt Bridge in conjunction with the adjacent landowners.
- Supported establishment of the Koksilah Park Society, a "Friends of the Park" organization.
- Allowed construction by the Koksilah Park Society of a hiking / nature trail.
- Supported park clean-ups using local volunteers.
- Closed off various sections of the park to mountain biking and motorized vehicles.
- Implemented a modest facility development program that included tenting sites, a small parking lot, two toilets, and provision of visitor information.
- Placed commercial recreational activities under Park Use Permits.

Recreational opportunities presently available include:

- Walk-in camping;
- Nature appreciation and bird / wildlife viewing;
- Picnicking;
- Seasonal angling;
- Swimming;
- Hiking;
- Kayaking; and
- Mountain biking on designated trails.

Relationship to Other Land Use Planning

BC Parks recognizes that Koksilah River Provincial Park is one of several recreational providers within a regional recreation area. In order to accommodate an expanding population base and tourism growth, there will be a need for a collaborative approach to decision-making in the near term, so that long-term goals and initiatives are consistent and mutually supportive between BC Parks, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and other government agencies.

Recreation within the CVRD is about to enter a more intensive stage of planning, which will involve and impact upon all types of recreation facilities and protected areas. BC Parks will collaborate in and support CVRD planning initiatives, including a *Regional Recreation Plan*, a *Greenways Study* and /or a *Trails Master Plan*, since these studies provide useful information to assist in provincial park decision-making and management.

At the time of preparing this *management plan*, opportunities for trail expansion exist. The Trans Canada Trail will run through or near the park, and connect with the Galloping Goose Trail to the south of Shawnigan Lake. This trail will have a major impact on Koksilah River Park and its future management decisions.

The *Vancouver Island Land-Use Plan (February 2000)* identified many areas in the vicinity of the park as General Management Zone 34, which are watershed regions with substantial forests suitable for timber harvesting and silviculture.

Management Issues

The planning issues involve surrounding lands. Management strategies therefore need to take into consideration the need to retain ecological integrity and the mandates and interests of other agencies, the values of groups interested in conservation and recreation, and the views of adjacent landowners and other stakeholders and the need to retain ecological integrity within the park.

Access and Roads

Unacceptable levels of inappropriate and unregulated activities in the past have resulted from easy and unlimited access to the park. Positive changes have taken place in recent years (e.g. installation of Burnt Bridge gate), but there is potential to greatly improve the situation by modifying access and roads.

Park Boundaries

Significant outdoor recreation features and natural values, such as adjacent grasslands and the gorge, lie outside the park. Modifications to park boundaries will be considered to conserve rare or endangered plant and wildlife species and plant communities. Some existing areas within the park do not meet park objectives and could be considered surplus and potentially available to exchange for those contiguous ecologically important lands.

Regional Recreation Planning

BC Parks' management and development of Koksilah River Provincial Park will be affected by the regional planning initiatives of the CVRD and by development of the Trans Canada Trail and the expansion of other local trail networks.

Recreation Opportunities

Further evaluation is required to determine the types of outdoor recreation opportunities that are compatible with the conservation objectives of the park.

The Role of the Park

Provincial and Regional Context

Koksilah River Provincial Park is situated in southwestern BC near the east coast of southern Vancouver Island (Figures 1 and 2). The park is located within the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), which has a population of approximately 75,000. Duncan and North Cowichan are the closest major urban centres with over 30,000 residents living within the municipal boundary.

The moderate climate of eastern Vancouver Island, which is in the rainshadow of the Insular Mountain Range, permits a variety of year round recreation activities. A survey of CVRD residents conducted in 1992 for the *Cowichan River Recreation Management Plan* identified the most common recreational activities of residents. In descending order, these were: day hiking, nature study, swimming, picnicking, fishing, inner tubing, camping, cycling, rafting, canoeing, horseback riding, hunting, overnight hiking and kayaking.

Many of the above noted activities are available in Koksilah River Provincial Park, which attests to its popularity. The park is mainly used by local and regional users as its location is well away from the Trans-Canada Highway. Until recently, the park has not been identified on highway signage. Increased awareness of the park among tourists is only recently being encouraged, as park facilities have recently been developed to accommodate growing numbers of overnight and day use visitors.

Nearby provincial parks include Cowichan River Provincial Park to the north (Class "A"), West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park (Class "A"), Spectacle Lake Provincial Park (Class "A") and Bamberton Provincial Park (Class "A") to the south, and Bright Angel Provincial Park (Class "C") to the east (Figure 1). The CVRD has Crown land reserved for a regional park in the Marble Canyon area, approximately two km downstream on the Koksilah River.

Significance in the Protected Areas System

Koksilah River Park lies within the Leeward Island Mountains Ecosection of which only 4.60% is protected provincially and the Nanaimo Lowland Ecosection of which only 1.31% is protected provincially.

The park and adjacent area provides habitat for rare vascular plant species, as identified by the British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (CDC), which monitors the locations of rare vascular plants, plant communities and wildlife species in the province. CDC records show 2 endangered or threatened ("red listed") and 2 vulnerable ("blue listed") vascular plant species located in this area:

- Pine broomrape (*Orobanche pinorum*) S1, red listed;
- Prairie lupine (*Lupinus lepidus var. lepidus*) S1, red listed;
- Woodland penstemon (*Notochelone nemorosa*) S2S3, blue listed
- Macoun's groundsel (*Senecio macounii*) S3, blue listed

Although not yet mapped by the CDC (2000), the following three S2 red-listed plant communities are represented within the park:

- *Pseudotsuga menziesii/Symphoricarpos albus-Holodiscus discolor* (Douglas-fir/snowberry-ocean spray);
- *Pseudotsuga menziesii-Arbutus menziesii* (Douglas-fir-arbutus);
- *Pseudotsuga menziesii/Gaultheria shallon* (Douglas-fir/salal).

Remnants of old growth Douglas-fir forest and tall grand fir (*Abies grandis*) in the southwestern parcel or in the vicinity of the park (D.L. 191) are also of conservation significance within the surrounding landscape of clearcuts and younger forests.

- Pine Broomrape (*Orobanche pinorum*) Located within the park boundary. This is the only known occurrence of this very rare species found in British Columbia.

- Prairie Lupine (*Lupinus lepidus var. lepidus*) A "historical" record exists for this species in this area, but this red listed (endangered or threatened) plant has not been reconfirmed recently and may now be extirpated from the park, and possibly from the province.

- Woodland Penstemon (*Notochelone nemorosa*). The park contains one of the largest populations of this blue listed (vulnerable) species known in British Columbia.

- Macoun's Groundsel (*Senecio macounii*). This uncommon plant has not been confirmed in the park in recent years and its exact location within the park is uncertain. There are a few other protected areas in the region from which the species has been recorded.

Endangered or vulnerable wildlife, including Roosevelt elk and the western screech owl are believed to use the park for their habitat. Apart from bird counts (Appendix C), no comprehensive wildlife inventories have been conducted within the park.

Park Roles

Conservation

As outlined in the *Protected Areas Strategy*, BC Parks has two conservation goals; *ecosystem representation* ("Goal 1") and *special features conservation* ("Goal 2"). Koksilah River Provincial Park contributes to the both of these goals, and park management will emphasize both goals. The park provides protection for representative ecosystems and associated habitats within the Very Dry Maritime subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone, which is vastly underrepresented and restricted in British Columbia to the eastern part of Vancouver Island. A special feature of the park is its picturesque riverfront setting with scenic stands of moss covered old growth Douglas-fir and associated plant species. Koksilah River Provincial Park conserves the habitat of a number of threatened (rare and endangered) species and plant communities, which are under pressure throughout this region.

Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

BC Parks has four recreation goals (Appendix A): outdoor recreation holiday destination, tourism travel route, regional recreation and backcountry recreation opportunities. Koksilah

River Provincial Park provides mainly regional recreation opportunities. Its geographic location and present size are not generally conducive to providing holiday destination, tourism, or backcountry recreation opportunities. Consequently, awareness and use of the park has been mainly limited to local and regional clientele.

Koksilah River Provincial Park does, however, offer a variety of river-oriented recreational opportunities. These include bird and wildlife viewing, camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, kayaking, limited mountain biking, nature appreciation and fishing.

Historically, recreational activities have generally not been monitored or managed in Koksilah River Provincial Park. Visitors with a diversity of interests use the park for a range of purposes. Most recreation occurs in the vicinity of Burnt Bridge, located near the park's geographic centre. Some activities within the park have had negative impacts, particularly the use of off-road vehicles and mountain bikes. These activities have been largely controlled in recent years with the requirement to apply for a Park Use Permit to host in-park events, and the installation of signage, gating of Burnt Bridge to limit park access, and recent facility development.

Several proposals are currently underway to expand the network of trails both within and adjacent to the park. There are collaborative efforts among BC Parks, Ministry of Forests, Koksilah Park Society, Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), Shawnigan Lake Trails Society, and the Trans Canada Trail Foundation to develop an extensive regional trail system. The Trans Canada Trail Foundation is contemplating various trail options, including one route that would be located within a portion of the park

Cultural

There are no known archaeological sites known within the park. However, this area is within the Cowichan Tribes traditional territory that is still in the treaty process and is subject to negotiation.

Burnt Bridge, which was rebuilt and named after the previous bridge burned, is a notable local landmark. The first bridge was built around 1865 and linked a wagon road to the Robertson Silver Mine (now abandoned) upstream of the park.

Vision for the Park

The primary roles (or goals) for the park are to

1. *Provide a river oriented recreational experience, while at the same time preserving the natural values and features of the river environment and adjacent sensitive sites.*
2. *Preserve and interpret a significant length of free flowing river.*

This park vision will guide the management of the park and park issues will be addressed in the context of this vision.

Koksilah River Provincial Park Vision Statement

Koksilah River Provincial Park continues to provide a river-oriented recreational experience for visitors and will protect the natural values and features of the river and adjacent sensitive sites.

The park is a focal point for recreational activities along the Koksilah River. It will continue to provide informal walk-in camping and compatible day use activities.

In recognition of the conservation and recreation values of the Koksilah River, the park boundaries will be reviewed and:

- *Where possible, a continuous linear greenway corridor of parkland along the river will be created, and exemplary sites adjacent to the park will be protected and interpreted.*
- *Collaborations and partnerships with interest groups, land owners and agencies will be facilitated wherever appropriate to achieve mutual conservation and recreation objectives within the park and adjacent to its boundaries.*

Relationship with First Nations

The traditional territory of the Cowichan Tribes includes the Koksilah River Provincial Park and its adjacent areas. This First Nation is aligned with the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, which negotiates on its behalf and all Crown land within Cowichan Tribes traditional territory is still in the treaty process and is subject to negotiation. To date, the Cowichan Tribes has expressed the following comments regarding Koksilah River Provincial Park and surrounding lands:

- Several sites of importance for spiritual purposes are located within the proposed new boundaries for the park.
- Culturally modified trees exist throughout the park.
- Seasonal hunting is traditionally practiced in areas adjacent to the Koksilah River.
- Medicinal plants are present throughout and adjacent to the park. Protection of the right to gather these plants is important to the Cowichan Tribes.
- Eagle Heights, which would be within the proposed expanded park boundary, is an area where traditional use activities take place.
- Several sites that are of traditional historical spiritual use and of legendary significance to the Cowichan Tribes are located in and adjacent to the park.
- A portion of the area contained with the proposed new boundary is Crown land. All Crown land in Cowichan Tribes' traditional territory is subject to treaty discussions.

Objective: *To improve communication and working relationships with First Nations whose traditional territories include the park.*

Strategies:

- Work closely with the Cowichan Tribes to review those identified areas of special spiritual and cultural interest within the park and discuss how BC Parks can protect these values.
- Encourage the Cowichan Tribes to participate in the stewardship of the park.

Relationship with Interest Groups

Introduction

Based upon the regional nature of some of the park's major issues, ongoing liaison will continue with government agencies, interest groups, owners of adjacent land and the general public. The major stakeholders and their interests include:

- Koksilah Park Society has a desire to expand the trail system in the park, extend the park boundary to preserve an adjacent pocket grassland meadow in its natural state, and conserve the riparian zone.

- Cowichan Tribes is interested in playing a stewardship role in the management of this park.
- Sierra Club of BC (Victoria chapter) and Federation of B.C. Naturalists supports the acquisition of the rare pocket grassland meadow located adjacent to the park.
- Cowichan Community Land Trust Society would also like to preserve the rare pocket grassland meadow, as well as a large buffer zone to be created through the use of conservation covenants.
- Cowichan Valley Naturalists and the Cowichan Valley Natural History Society are interested in preserving local natural heritage.
- Owners of adjacent land, including logging companies, the Ministry of Forests, individual land owners, and other parties that may be involved in possible land exchanges, conservation covenants or acquisitions with BC Parks.
- Cowichan Valley Regional District who is planning for future conservation and recreation needs on a regional scale through the Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Proponents of trail expansion, including the Trans Canada Trail Foundation and the Shawnigan Lake Trails Committee.
- Mountain bike and various other recreational user and conservation groups representing specific interests and park uses.

Collaboration and partnership initiatives provide an opportunity to plan at the regional scale, rather than on a less efficient/effective park-by-park basis. BC Parks will provide information and support for CVRD and Trans Canada Trail Foundation planning initiatives such as a *Regional Recreation Plan*, a *Greenways Study* and / or a *Trails Master Plan*. Results from these initiatives could potentially have planning management implications for various provincial parks, including Koksilah River, Cowichan River, West Shawnigan Lake, Memory Island, Spectacle Lake, Bamberton and Goldstream.

Objective: *To fulfil park objectives by utilizing collaborative arrangements where possible with interested agencies, user and interest groups and other stakeholders.*

Strategies:

- Collaborate with the CVRD, other agencies and interest groups in preparing a Regional Recreation Plan that supports and fulfills the vision for the park.
- Collaborate with and provide assistance to agencies such as the CVRD and interest groups in developing a Greenways Study and/or Trail Master Plan for the Koksilah River.
- Encourage and support the Trans Canada Trail Foundation in establishing a trail system within and in the vicinity of the park.
- Encourage non-profit organizations to apply for funds from corporate and / or government program sources. As opportunities arise, jointly complete projects that fulfil mutual mandates.
- Encourage volunteers to participate in a variety of park projects under the direction of BC Parks staff.

Government Agencies

BC Parks and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) have mutual interests in providing parks and other protected areas for conservation and recreation purposes.

Objective: *To encourage appropriate collaboration and partnerships with government agencies with similar mandates to BC Parks.*

Strategies:

- Continue to build upon the working relationship that has been established with CVRD and LUCO (Trans Canada Trail) staff.
- Assist, collaborate or partnership with the CVRD on park planning projects that are mutually beneficial.

Interest Groups and Individuals

There is a diversity of conservation and recreation-minded groups that provide assistance and support for BC Parks initiatives. Some of these are local based groups while others are local branches of national and international organizations.

Objectives: *To encourage interest groups to assist with projects that can achieve mutually compatible recreation and conservation goals.*

To continue community stewardship of the park, and solicit community support to assist with park monitoring, and to provide guidance on planned park activities and projects.

Strategies:

- Enlist the participation of interest groups and individuals in the inventory and ongoing monitoring of natural and cultural values.
- Continue the volunteer Stewardship agreement with the Koksilah Park Society, to assist in protecting the park's conservation and recreation values. Various components of the BC Parks Volunteer Program may also be appropriate to interested individuals, including the Park Watch and Conservation Steward Programs.
- Maintain liaison with owners of adjacent private land regarding the effects of public recreation on their property.

Park Zoning

Introduction

Zoning is a procedure used to assist in the management of parks by dividing each park into logical land and water units based upon uniform and consistent management objectives and/or intended land uses. Appendix B provides a detailed description of BC Parks planning zones, which include intensive recreation, natural environment, special feature, wilderness recreation and wilderness conservation. The natural environment and intensive recreation zones are appropriate to Koksilah River Provincial Park.

Natural Environment Zone

> *The objective of a **Natural Environment Zone** is to protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience, facilities are usually limited to relatively small areas and are visually compatible with the natural setting.*

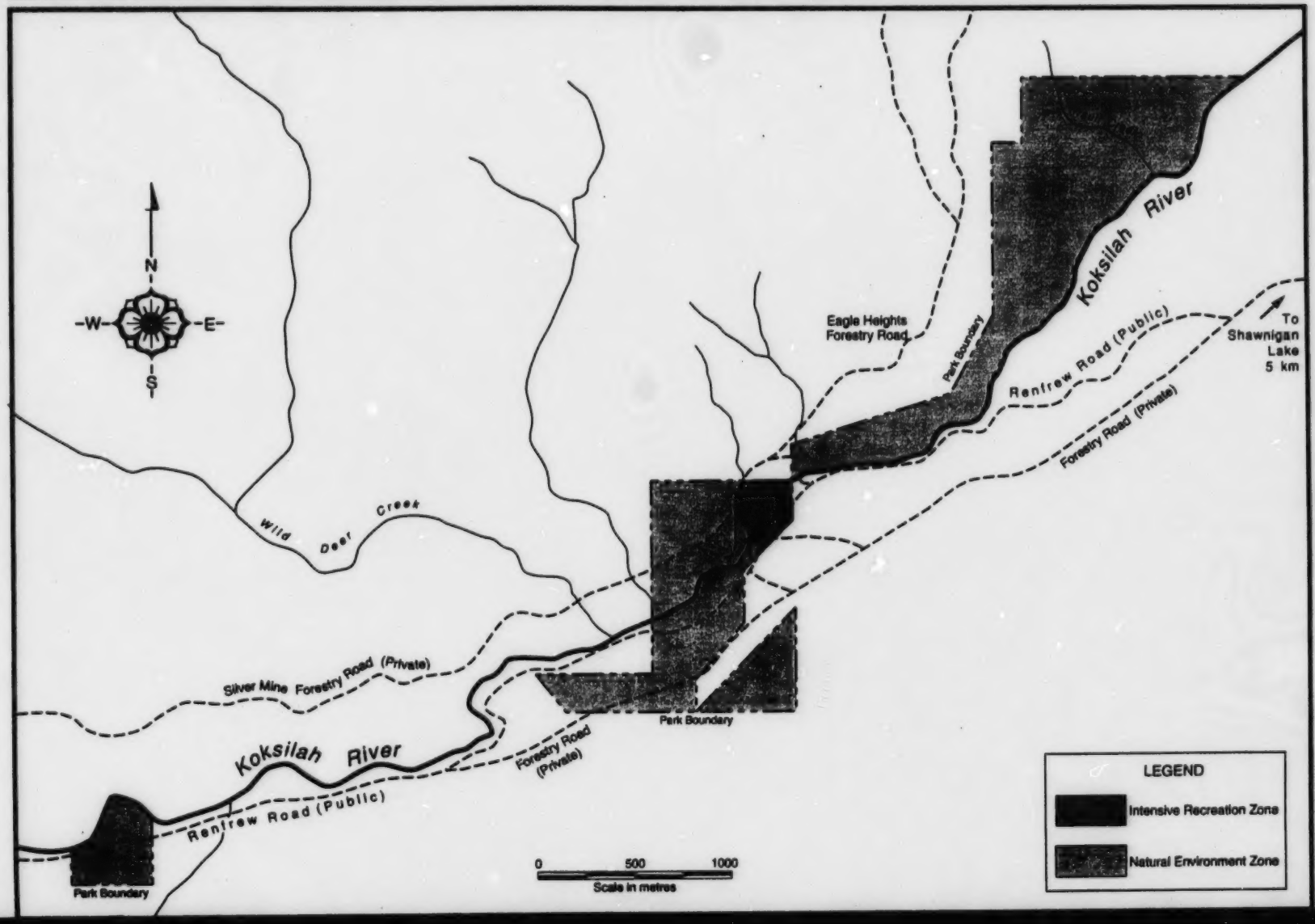
The natural environment zone, containing approximately 202 hectares, encompasses the majority of the park, including all portions on the north side of Koksilah River; all of the eastern section of the park; Lot 191 to the west; and most of the middle portion (Figure 3). These natural environment zones are to be maintained in their natural condition, while allowing a minimal amount of appropriate recreational activities such as camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, bird / wildlife viewing, swimming, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and angling.

Intensive Recreation Zone

> *The objective of an **Intensive Recreation Zone** is to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience, facilities may be intensely developed for user convenience.*

The small intensive recreation zone, containing approximately 8 hectares and located immediately adjacent to Burnt Bridge, has been developed for intensive recreation purposes, and includes 10 walk-in tent sites, a 15 space parking lot, two pit toilets, picnic tables and an information kiosk (Figure 4).

Koksilah River Provincial Park - Zoning



Natural and Cultural Values Management

Introduction

Park management will provide for the protection of natural features, ecosystems, and cultural heritage, along with opportunities for compatible recreational activities. This section outlines objectives and strategies compatible with the Vision Statement and Conservation and Cultural Heritage Role.

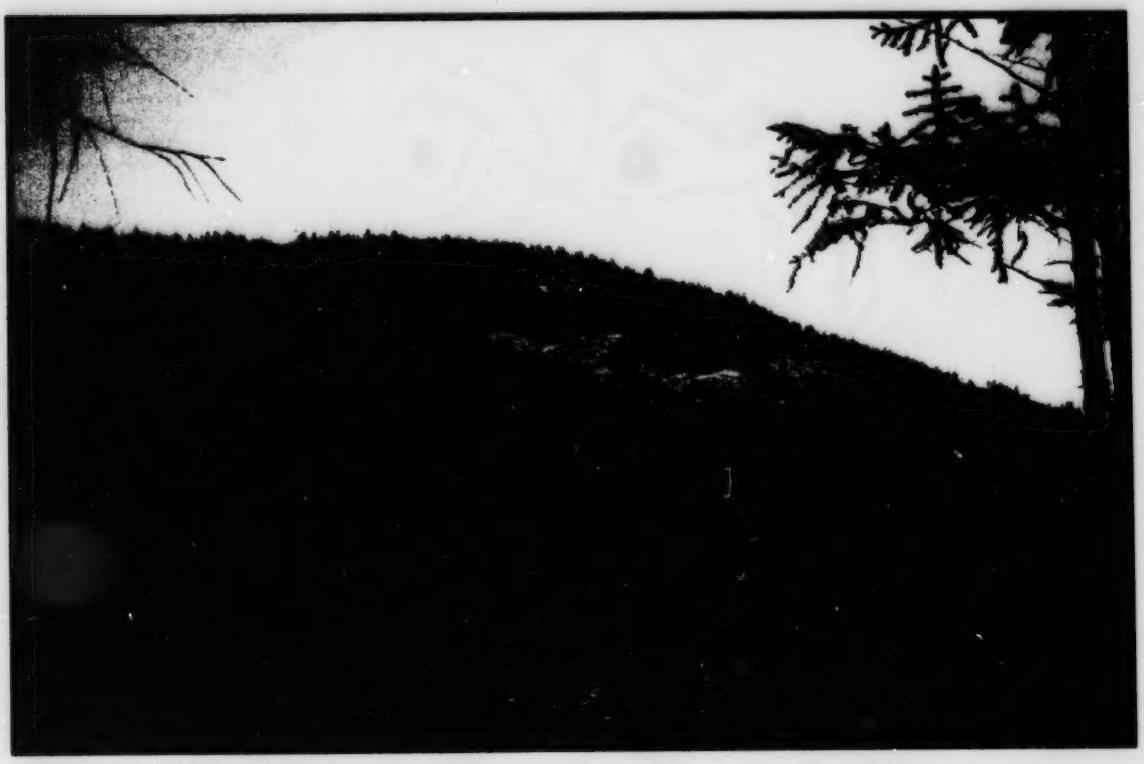


Plate 2: Viewscape from the Park to Eagle Heights

Land and Boundaries

The rationalization of park boundaries and acquisition of adjacent land are of importance to the future role of the park. An expansion of park boundaries would provide increased opportunities for the retention of ecological integrity in this area and provide additional recreation opportunities for park users. At the same time, existing areas within the park that may not meet park objectives will be reviewed and may be potentially available for exchange with ecologically valuable lands adjacent to the park.

Land adjacent to the park is primarily used by:

- Forestry companies for timber harvesting, including Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd., TimberWest, and Marguerite Logging.
- Ministry of Forests who manages Crown provincial forest within Vancouver Island Plantation Provincial Forest through the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program (SBFEP).
- BC Hydro, which has a right-of-way in the vicinity of the park.
- All-terrain vehicles, mountain biking, horseback riding and hiking, particularly on Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd. and TimberWest lands, as both companies allow recreational usage at this time on their lands.
- Private landowners, including some with on-site residences.
- Adjacent mineral claim holder.
- Other recreation sites, including a rustic 15 site campground that is being developed by TimberWest five km upstream of the park at Kapoor Hill. Also, the Ministry of Forests has two undeveloped recreation reserves (UREPs) approximately two km down river of the park, at Kinsol Trestle and at Marble Canyon.
- Two private campgrounds, one on the north side and one on the south side of Koksilah River.

There is a significant 'pocket' grassland meadow located just to the north of the park at Eagle Heights (see Figure 2 for location; Plate 3 for photograph). Seventeen hectares of this thirty-five hectare site is provincial Crown Forest Reserve, while the remainder is the property of Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd. This site is open grassland, with Garry oak trees, arbutus trees, wildflowers, and has small caves and sinkholes in the surrounding forest. The Koksilah Park Society, a number of other conservation groups and the CVRD have been active in promoting to have this land (including adjacent land for a buffer zone, a total size of eighty hectare) designated as an ecological reserve or added to the park. The site is considered outstanding by specialists because of its size, natural condition without introduced species, and because it provides habitat for rare and uncommon plant species and communities such as:

- Blue-listed (endangered or threatened) - Common Bluecup (*Githopsis specularioides*), Dune bentgrass (*Agrostis pallens)* found close to seepage sites on open slopes.
- Blue-listed (endangered or threatened) – Western Pearl Flower (*Heterocodon rariflorum*) found on seepage sites within 'pocket' grasslands.

- other uncommon species such as:
  Foliose Willowherb (*Epilobium foliosum*) found on dry, sparsely vegetated patches within grasslands.
  Clustered broom-rape (*Orobanche fasciculata).*
  Venus Looking Glass (*Triodanis perfoliata*)
  Blue Toadflax (*Linaria canadensis var. texana*).
  Lemmon's Needlegrass (*Achnatheron lemmonii var. lemmonii*).
  Harford's melic (*Melica harfordii*)
  Small-leafed Bentgrass (*Agrostis microphylla*).

Although not yet mapped by the CDC (2000), this site contains four provincially red-listed plant communities:

- *Festuca idahoensis – Koeleria macrantha* (Idaho fescue-junegrass – S1)
- *Quercus garryana/Holodiscus discolor* (Garry oak-ocean spray – S1)
- *Pseudotsuga menziesii –Arbutus menziesii* (Douglas-fir – arbutus – S2)
- *Arbutus menziesii/Arctostaphylos columbiana* (Arbutus/hairy manzanita – S2)

From a conservation perspective, the presence of intact, rare plant communities can be considered more significant than the presence of individual rare plant species. Some of these elements are also likely to occur within the park boundaries.

Protection of the Eagle Heights grassland, either as part of the park or as an ecological reserve, would result in a protected area with very high conservation significance. Local government, professional botanists, ecologists and other local and provincial conservation groups such as the Sierra Club and Federation of B.C. Naturalists support the Koksilah Park Society's desire to conserve the meadow.

Objectives: *To further explore the opportunity of securing protection for the rare and environmentally sensitive pocket grasslands located adjacent to the park.*

To review existing park boundaries and identify any contiguous lands worthy of conserving for rare or endangered plant and wildlife species, and/or that will provide expanded recreational opportunities and improved park access for park users.

To consider a long-term land acquisition plan that would look at establishing a linear greenway corridor along both sides of the river to link the Lot 191 portion of the park with the rest of the park.

Strategies:

- Continue negotiations with Weyerhaeuser Canada, Cowichan Tribes, Ministry of Forests, and other government agencies to provide protection for the rare grassland meadow located adjacent to the park.
- Identify appropriate contiguous lands to acquire by enlisting the assistance of interest groups and agencies to more fully identify, categorize and map adjacent locations with sensitive habitats and scenic or otherwise special features.
- Develop a land acquisition and disposition program based upon the results of the above noted land evaluation process. This would include reviewing existing park lands that may be deemed surplus (e.g. south portion of Lot 191 and triangular portion of Bear Creek Forestry Road) and identifying potential lands with higher ecological and cultural values.
- Undertake the initiation of park boundary adjustments along the river corridor that consider additions and deletions to the park.
- Explore potential opportunities for corporate/other land donations.
- Inform the Vancouver Island Interagency Management Committee (IAMC) about proposed park boundary adjustments and land acquisition initiative.

Plate 3: Pocket Grassland Meadow at Eagle Heights

Water

Water is an important physical characteristic of the park as the river provides a desirable, peaceful quality to the natural environment (Plate 4). Apart from the river, there are no other notable large aquatic features such as lakes. The river and its tributary streams are seasonally fast flowing and dramatic in some areas and are more quiet and reflective at other locations. The majority of the riverbank is rocky and steep, although fairly level areas with a gravel shoreline are common.

Objective: *To protect and preserve the natural quality of the water in the park for conservation, fish habitat, aesthetic and recreational purposes.*

Strategies:

- Situate visitor facilities in locations that do not jeopardize water quality.
- Based on recommendations from the *Recreation and Trail Plan* determine the role that the park can play in providing opportunities for fishing in the Koksilah River.

Plate 4: Reflections in a Koksilah River Pool

Forest and Vegetation

Vegetation is one of the most prevalent values of the park, particularly the scenic stands of tall trees in certain locations, such as at Lot 191 (Plate 5). The park is mainly forested with Douglas-fir *(Pseudotsuga menziesii)* and Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*). Both old-growth and second-growth stands of Douglas-fir are common. District lot 191 holds particularly fine, near record-size Grand fir (*Abies grandis*). Western yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) grows in several locations along the riverside. Since many of the trees are large, they create an atmosphere of solitude and serenity. Undergrowth is generally fairly dense, although it is possible to traverse most of the park on foot without much difficulty. As previously noted, several rare vascular plant species also occur within the park.

In the main portion of the park in the vicinity of Burnt Bridge, as well as in some parts of Lot 191, historic over use has led to areas of denuded ground where the lower vegetation has been worn away. These natural areas are now being rehabilitated through a revegetation program.

Objectives: *To protect threatened, rare and endangered plant species and habitats.*

To continue to preserve the important natural environment features along the Koksilah River.

Strategies:

- Conduct a comprehensive plant inventory and determine the distribution of old growth forest within the park; encourage research studies of plant communities / species found within the park.
- Continue to prevent vehicular access to Lot 191 to assist in preserving its natural values. In conjunction, provide a day-use parking lot to encourage foot traffic and increased low impact usage of the site, such as nature appreciation and picnicking.
- Encourage preservation of significant natural and cultural sites in the vicinity of Koksilah River, including a rare pocket grassland.
- Continue with revegetation initiatives and keep park visitors away from newly planted areas until the vegetation regrows by erecting fencing and signage. Install signage, increase park monitoring, and erect fencing immediately adjacent to Burnt Bridge to discourage continued damage by mountain bikers.
- Update a *Fire Management Plan*, in consultation with the Ministry of Forests, as per the inter-ministerial protocol agreement.
- Investigate working with Ministry of Forests and MELP on spatially locating old growth management areas (OGMAS) in the South Island Forest District and within Koksilah River Provincial Park.

Plate 5: Moss Covered Douglas-fir on Lot 191

Wildlife

According to a 1995 provincial government working paper entitled "*Wildlife Diversity in British Columbia: Distribution and Habitat Use of Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals in Biogeoclimatic Zones*", the Very Dry Maritime subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWHxm) zone that encompasses most of leeward Vancouver Island, provides habitat for 451 wildlife species. These species include 327 birds, 105 mammals, 13 amphibians and 6 reptiles.

Members of the Cowichan Valley Natural History Society and the Cowichan Valley Naturalists have observed approximately 90 species of birds that occur in the vicinity of the park on a seasonal or year round basis (Appendix C). Wildlife species known to exist within the park include: black tailed deer, black bear, cougar, timber wolf, raccoon, mink, marten, Douglas squirrel, garter snake, western red-backed salamander, rough-skinned newt, Pacific tree frog, red-legged frog, western screech owl, and several species of bat. The Koksilah River hosts a "wild run" of late winter / early spring steelhead. In addition, hatchery bred and released trout descend to the park via a creek from Wild Deer Lake.

Objectives: *To protect rare and endangered species.*

To protect and maintain the park's natural wildlife habitats.

To encourage scientific research within the park.

Strategies:

- Ensure sensitive wildlife habitats and rare and endangered species are protected when developing recreation facilities, e.g. trails and visitor management strategies.
- Encourage inventory research of terrestrial and aquatic species to provide information on the presence of both rare and endangered species.

Cultural Heritage Values

Koksilah River Provincial Park and adjacent areas are part of the traditional territory of the Cowichan Tribes. Other local cultural history within the park has been minimal. Cowichan Tribes have in the past and will continue to use Koksilah River Provincial Park for their traditional purposes such as historical/spiritual use, gathering of medicinal plants and seasonal hunting.

Objectives: *To protect and preserve archaeological, cultural and historic values from disruptive development and inappropriate land uses and recreational activities.*

To increase knowledge, understanding and awareness of Koksilah River Provincial Park's cultural heritage values.

To provide information and education opportunities on First Nations culture and the history of the area.

Strategies:

- Ensure that First Nations cultural and spiritual values associated with the park are protected.
- Continue meetings with representatives of the Cowichan Tribes to develop an understanding of common values with BC Parks and discuss possible opportunities for First Nation's involvement in aspects of the park's management.
- Cooperate with the Cowichan Tribes in developing an information package that outlines traditional aboriginal land uses and culture. BC Parks will seek cooperation from the Cowichan Tribes and assist their representatives in gathering archaeological, heritage and cultural information that may be important for conservation purposes.
- Investigate the history of this area (e.g. logging, railroad development mining and early settlement).

Visual/Aesthetic

Koksilah River has a picturesque setting that is characterized by towering first and second growth trees, moss-covered rock outcrops, and a river with interesting bends, deep pools, shallow rapids and distinctive blends of water color. There is considerable variety in the landscape of the park, both within and between adjacent land parcels, which creates interest and encourages exploration. The view from the park includes a forested mountain slope that provides habitat for a rare pocket grassland meadow (Plate 2) that is not within the park.

Objectives: *To minimize human changes to the views both within and outside of the park so that the visual qualities and natural atmosphere of the park are not compromised.*

To ensure that recreational experiences are provided for in a manner which complements and ensures ecological integrity of the park's natural setting.

Strategies:

- Continue to work with owners of adjacent land, including the Ministry of Forests, forest companies and private landowners, to promote and maintain the visual integrity of lands surrounding the park.
- Design and situate park facilities in a manner that preserves the park's visual attractiveness.

Scientific Research and Education

The park's proximity to Malaspina College's Duncan and Nanaimo campuses, and relative closeness to Victoria's post-secondary institutions and government agencies provides numerous scientific research and education opportunities.

Objectives: *To encourage scientific research that contributes to an understanding of the natural ecosystems and cultural features of the park.*

To promote conservation through increased environmental and cultural awareness and education.

To encourage scientific research projects in the park.

Strategies:

- Liaise with post-secondary institutions, government agencies, interest groups, First Nations, funding agencies and corporate sponsors to unite researchers with funding for projects.
- Encourage inventory research of terrestrial and aquatic species to provide information on the presence of both rare and endangered species.
- Publicize research findings that are of interest to the general public in website information and on informational signage within the park.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Management

Introduction

A major role of a *management plan* is to provide direction regarding the types of recreation that are appropriate, and to outline the steps that should be taken in developing a recreation strategy. The first major outdoor, recreation management initiative in the park occurred several years ago when BC Parks added various facilities to encourage family oriented recreation activities, and to discourage inappropriate activities. Appropriate recreational activities for this park have low environmental impact such as wildlife viewing, hiking, biking, swimming, picnicking, kayaking and fishing.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

At present Koksilah River Provincial Park provides hiking trails, walk-in campsites, a parking lot for day users, sanitary facilities and information signage (Figure 4). The park is used as a connector to other areas for mountain biking, hunting and horseback riding.

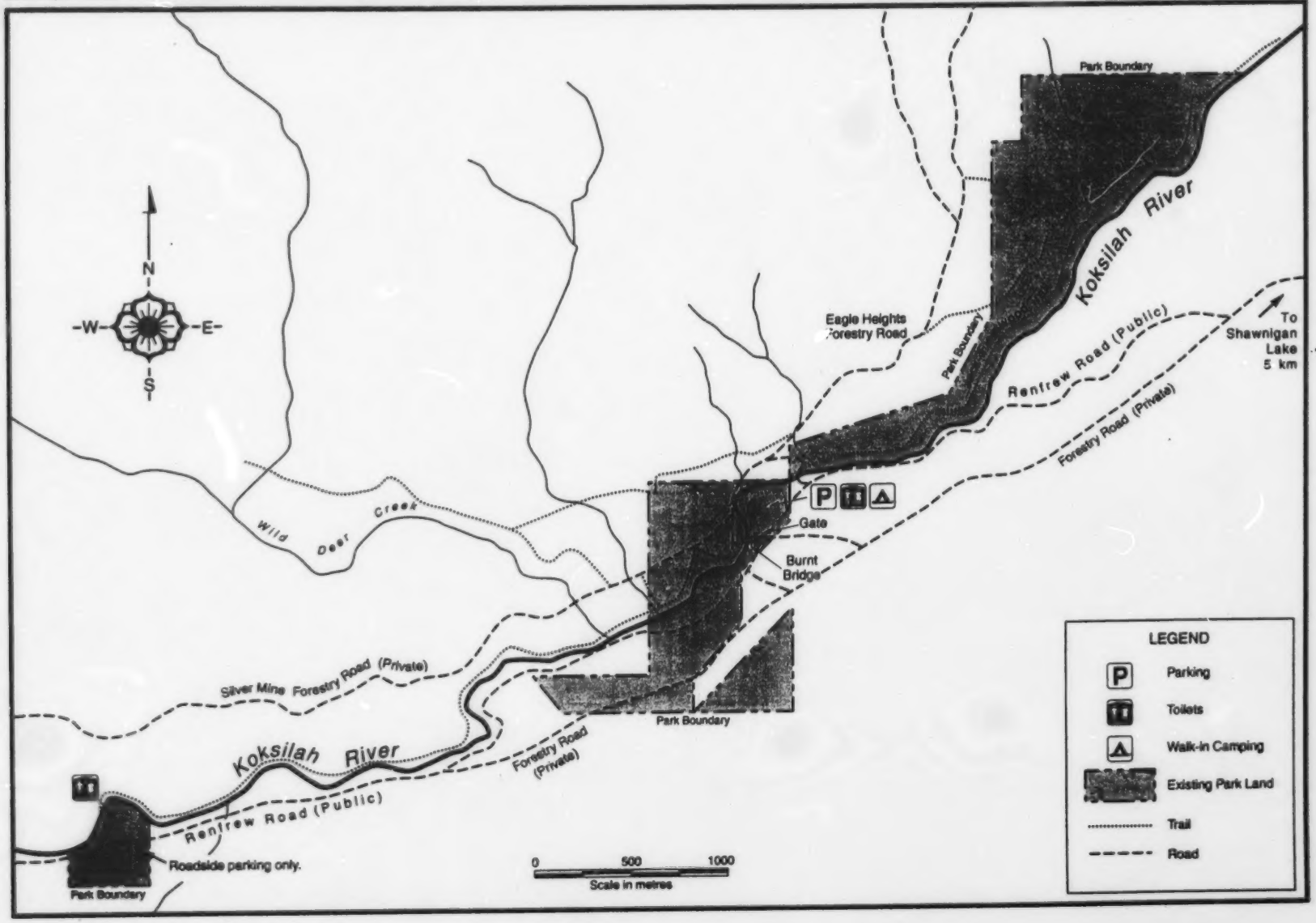
The natural and cultural features of the park create opportunities for a variety of recreational pursuits. The park's proximity to a population base, easy access, forest, water features, moss-covered rock outcrops and trails, all contribute to its role as an important source of recreation and education. In providing for a variety of recreational activities, it is important that the impacts of added facilities and visitation are managed so as to protect the ambience and qualities that define Koksilah River Provincial Park's natural environment. Conservation and recreation goals must continue to be in balance over time.

Objective: *To provide appropriate recreational experiences in the park that recognizes the need to retain ecological integrity and minimize user conflicts.*

Strategies:

- Cooperate with the CVRD, other agencies and interest groups in preparing a *Regional Recreation Plan* that complements the vision for the park.
- Maintain existing recreation facilities and prepare a *Recreation and Trail Plan* to determine planning priorities including:
  - ⇒ a review of horseback riding options;
  - ⇒ a review of cycling and mountain biking options;
  - ⇒ a review of fishing options;
  - ⇒ a review of campground development configuration and local options.

Koksilah River Provincial Park - Existing Facilities



Camping

The campground opened in Koksilah River Provincial Park in the summer of 1997. Forest Renewal BC funded the creation of 10 walk-in tent sites. (Plate 6).

Historical use demonstrates that July to September is the high season for camping along Koksilah River. With continuing growth of the local population, currently at over 2% annually, combined with the increasing popularity of tourism, demand should continue to grow. Additional camping within the Intensive Recreation Zone will be considered to meet anticipated recreational demand, and to discourage camping in undesignated areas.

Objective: *To provide additional opportunities for camping within the Intensive Recreation Zone.*

Strategies:

- If the outcome of the *Recreation and Trail Plan* recommends it, provide additional walk-in campsites in a location that will have minimal impact on the natural environment.

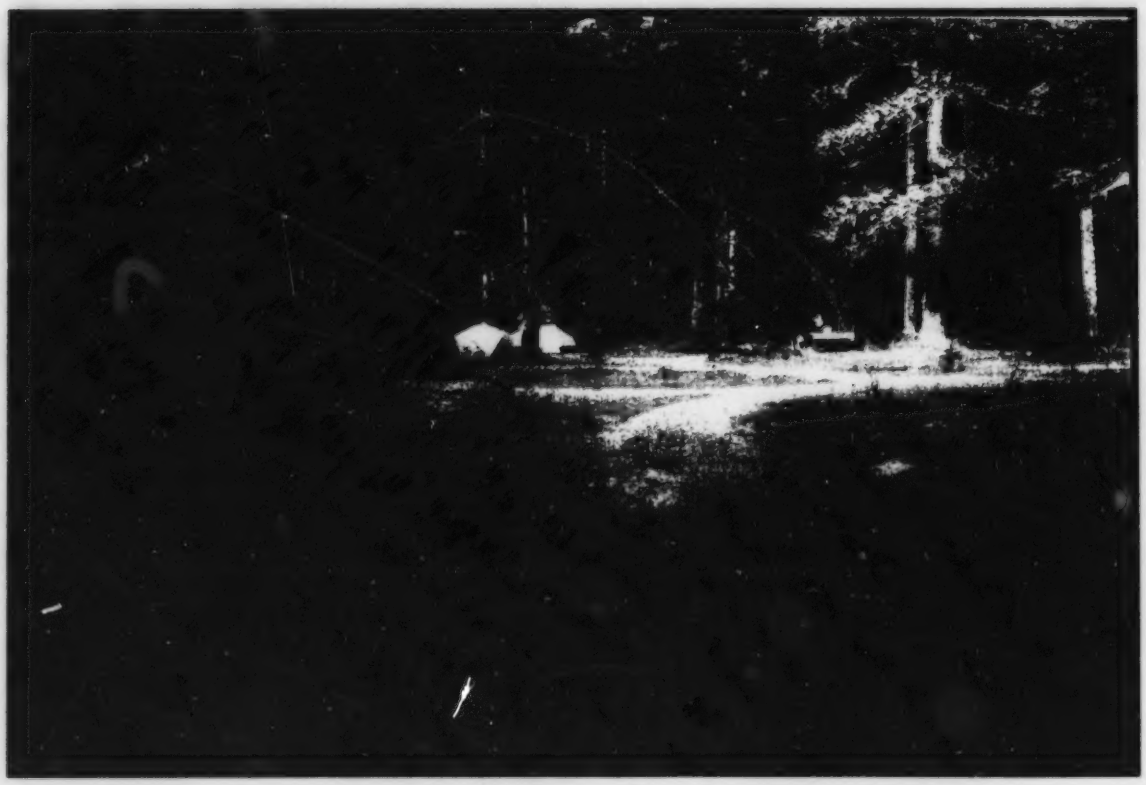


Plate 6: Walk-in Tent Campground near Burnt Bridge

Hiking and Horseback Riding

The trails in Koksilah River Provincial Park are ideal for hiking although some are currently being used unofficially by mountain bikers. Existing trails and pathways are small in number, and have been created through informal historical patterns of use. However, unauthorized mountain bikes and off-road vehicles have also developed trails over many years, leading to environmental degradation due to steep terrain and poor trail location.

Upon completion of the Trans Canada Trail and other regional trail systems, hiking is likely to become more prevalent in the vicinity of the park. There is a need for coordinated regional trail planning among the trail groups and governing agencies involved and for multi-use trail designation and regulations.

Objectives: *To maintain and improve trails within the park to provide increased hiking and strolling opportunities.*

To link together appropriate recreational use of the park's land parcels using trails on suitable lands.

To collaborate and cooperate with agencies and groups with an interest in developing greenways in the Koksilah River area.

Strategies:

- Establish a Trails Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the Koksilah Park Society Stewardship Agreement, to recommend trail development and trail closures to BC Parks.
- Collaborate with and provide assistance to agencies, such as the CVRD and interest groups, in developing a *Greenways Study* and / or a *Trails Master Plan* for the Koksilah River.
- Based on Trail Advisory Committee recommendations, limit trail uses to those compatible with conservation. Horseback riding will only be allowed on designated trails within the park.
- Install additional in-park signage to communicate appropriate trail use and activities.

Cycling and Mountain Biking

Mountain biking activity has produced a trail network with high environmental impacts. In order to enable revegetation to occur and prevent further damage, mountain biking and cycling in general will be limited initially to the Trans Canada and Can Am trails and park roads.

Objectives: *To provide for cycling on designated trails in the park as deemed appropriate.*

Strategies:

- Review cycling and mountain biking options as part of the *Recreation and Trail Plan* and Trail Advisory Committee recommendations.
- Send a letter to local mountain biking and cycling associations to inform them directly of BC Parks' policy upon completion of the *Recreation and Trail Plan.*

Day Use

The proximity of the park to Duncan, Greater Victoria and adjacent smaller communities has resulted in Koksilah River Provincial Park becoming a popular destination for day use activities. There is an anticipated growth in the population base of the Cowichan Valley, leading to a subsequent increase for local day use recreation. The current facilities are generally sufficient for present needs, but additional facilities will likely be useful within the foreseeable future.

Objectives: *To maintain a range of day use recreation activities, including nature appreciation, fishing, swimming, kayaking, and picnicking, that has minimal impact on the park.*

Strategies:

- Monitor changes in day use visitor levels and demands on facilities.
- Provide additional parking, toilets and picnic tables as necessary within the Intensive Recreation Zone.
- Ensure that an inappropriate level of recreation activity is not being encouraged, particularly in sensitive habitats.
- Seek the assistance of volunteers and corporate/agency sponsorships in providing park facilities for visitors.

Natural and Cultural Appreciation

The park offers various nature appreciation opportunities, but few cultural features have been identified. Interpretive signs can build an awareness and appreciation of nature conservation, local aboriginal culture and history. These educational signs also promote park stewardship, encourage appropriate visitor behaviour, and an understanding and appreciation of the park's features and role in preserving special features and biological diversity.

Objectives: *To interpret special natural and cultural values in and around Koksilah River Provincial Park.*

To interpret the park's natural and cultural values so they can develop an appreciation and understanding of the significant roles of the park.

Strategies:

- Identify opportunities and methods to provide visitors with information about the park's natural and cultural resources and adjacent special features such as the Kinsol Trestle.
- Seek volunteer, First Nations and corporate assistance in providing park education signs, interpretive displays, programs, tours and other means of providing information to visitors.

Access Strategy

Renfrew Road runs beside and through the park on the south side of Koksilah River, while Bear Creek Road is an adjacent bypass road that is used by vehicular traffic, including logging trucks. Renfrew Road and Bear Creek Road are joined near the main portion of the park by a connector road that links the park to Weyerhaueser and Timberwest dry land sort areas that are presently unused.

There is a good quality gravel-surfaced resource access road on the north side of Koksilah River that is locally known as Silver Mine Road, but it has not been officially named.

Both sides of the river are open to pedestrians who can cross the river across Burnt Bridge. A gate installed at Burnt Bridge assists in preventing vehicles from reaching the less easily accessible north side of the river, and discourages non-conforming uses within the park and on adjacent lands beyond. Timber companies, the Ministry of Forests, BC Hydro, and a limited number of recreation organizations and emergency service organizations that require access to the north side of the river have been issued keys to the gate.

The present road system is designed so that through traffic can use either Renfrew Road that runs through the park, or the privately owned Bear Creek Road, which is known as a bypass road. This situation compromises both the ecological integrity and the recreational enjoyment of the park. The presence of the bypass road in the vicinity of the main portion of the park provides an excellent opportunity to redirect all through traffic to Bear Creek Road and away from pedestrian oriented park activities (Figure 5).

The road names could be exchanged along this section, with Renfrew Road becoming the through road. Bear Creek Road would then become a short non-through road. This initiative would not hinder logging or other through traffic. This process would create a more solitary environment for park visitors and a higher standard of safety for them as well.

Additionally, gating would also enable BC Parks to have significantly more control of access to the park, particularly if a gate were also installed on the connector road. This supplementary gate, in conjunction with the gate at Burnt Bridge, could be kept closed as necessary to restrict vehicular access to and from the main intensive use area of the park, including the campground.

Once the Trans Canada Trail is completed it is anticipated that an increase in foot traffic and camping will occur along this access route.

Objectives: *To provide a reasonable level of access for visitors to experience the park, while maximizing protection of wildlife habitat and visitor safety.*

To continue restricting motorized vehicle access to the north side of the park at Burnt Bridge.

Strategies:

- Finalize the consultation process with owners of adjacent land, local government, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and interest groups about access management proposal.
- Re-orient access through the park on the south side to improve traffic flow.
- Continue restricting motorized vehicle access to the north side of the park at Burnt Bridge.
- Gate Renfrew Road at both boundaries in the main section of the park.
- Erect a "Through Traffic Keep Left / Right" directional sign at both junction points of Renfrew and Bear Creek Roads to direct traffic to its destination.
- Link future park and regional trail system development with the TCT.
- Encourage MOTH to upgrade Renfrew Road (pave surface) to meet future use demands (i.e. TCT impact) and local/regional development and growth.

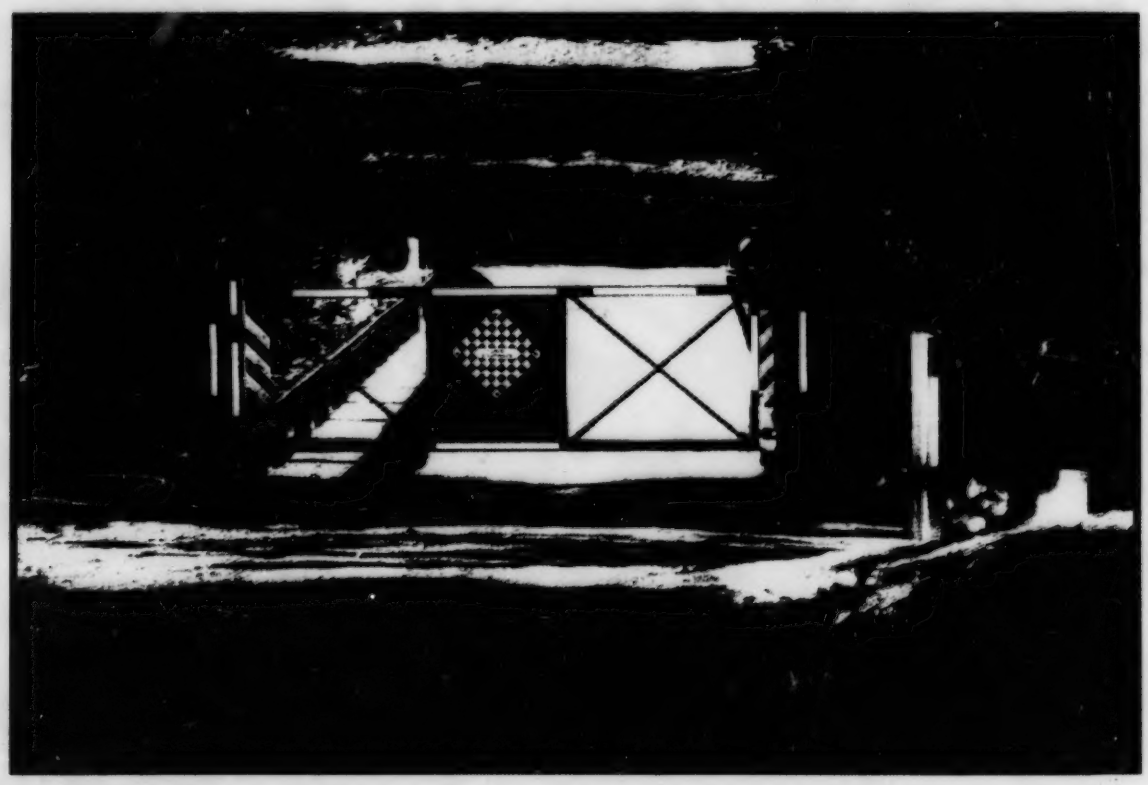


Plate 7: Access Gate at Burnt Bridge

Management Services

Koksilah River Provincial Park is administered from the South Vancouver Island District office, which is located within Goldstream Provincial Park in Langford. Park officers and contractors will ensure that management responsibilities are carried out according to the *Park Act* and its regulations, this management plan and the established policies and procedures of the Ministry of Water, Lands and Air Protection.

Objectives: *To foster opportunities for volunteer services, stewardships and activities including park wardens, hosts and interpreters.*

To maintain a public role in the management of the park.

Strategies:

- Prepare Annual Management Plans to implement management strategies. Management strategies will utilize the Vision Statement of this management plan as a planning framework and priorities for the park's development will be based on defined objectives.
- Provide a management presence in the park through visits by staff, contractors and/or volunteers.
- Promote volunteer "Park Watch" program to provide information and advice, as well as observe, record and report infractions.
- Liaise on a regular basis with representatives of park interest groups to ensure that management of the park benefits from local input.
- Implement Emergency Measures Plan for the park as required.

Communications

Introduction

This *management plan* outlines the importance of fostering collaboration and partnerships with individuals, groups and agencies with compatible mandates. There are a diversity of user groups and special interest organizations that will be impacted through carrying out the strategies of this *management plan.* BC Parks intends to consider their interests when decisions are likely to impact their use of the park. Notice of any impending changes to the park, such as its boundaries, access and use restrictions will be communicated by BC Parks to these organizations.

Public awareness is also an important factor in instilling a greater appreciation for the park's special attributes among park users and interested stakeholders.

Marketing and Promotion

Promotion of a park influences the types of use and levels of use it attracts. Promotion strategies must balance objectives for providing recreational opportunities with objectives for conservation of sensitive natural and cultural values.

Objectives: *To promote the recreational, educational and research opportunities of the park in a manner consistent with maintaining ecological integrity and resource values.*

To ensure that marketing and promotion is consistent with encouraging appropriate uses within the park.

To promote the park as a destination for low impact recreational activity.

Strategies:

- Maintain up to date marketing and promotion information on the BC Parks Website and in park publications, brochures, tourist guides and local agencies' reports.
- Distribute marketing information through the Website, District Office and cooperatively through other government agencies, and local and regional tourist offices.

Awareness and Pre-Trip Planning

This facet of park communications assists visitors to organize their trip and plan what areas of the park they wish to visit. The aim is to give visitors the information they need to plan ahead for a safe, enjoyable experience.

Objectives: *To provide easily accessed pre-trip planning information to potential park visitors that communicates a clear idea of what they can expect to find in the park such as resources, special features, activities, facilities, services and regulations.*

Strategies:

- Provide awareness and pre-trip planning information, including adequate maps and park safety and security information, BC Parks Website, park brochure and other appropriate tourist-oriented and government publications.

Orientation Information

Orientation information is delivered to visitors when they are travelling to the park and within the park.

Objectives: *To provide location and orientation information, including maps.*

To inform park visitors of relevant safety and conservation information.

To encourage compliance with park regulations.

To promote outdoor etiquette, respect for the natural surroundings and careful appreciation of the values found within the park.

Strategies:

- Maintain effective highway directional signage, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.
- Provide orientation information on park signs located at key orientation nodes (arrival, parking and trailheads), in appropriate publications and on the BC Parks Website. Information should include locations of accepted recreational activities, trails, facilities, features and park regulations.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Education

Natural and Cultural Heritage Themes

Information for the park will rely primarily on non-personal information media as well as some personal interpretation to communicate important park themes and messages. BC Parks is an agency with a number of important functions including education. As such, there is an obligation to identify and deliver important education/interpretation themes and messages.

Koksilah River Provincial Park contains several core themes that will form the basis of a communication program.

Key Themes

The Nature of the Place:

This is the most basic theme that BC Parks needs to present at all parks and in most communications. It is of primary importance to help park visitors and residents understand the basic characteristics of Koksilah River Park and why it is special. Messages will include information on biodiversity, physical geography, geology, weather, climate and ecological classification schemes.

Why Protected Areas?

British Columbia is a spectacular and diverse province that can still preserve relatively undisturbed examples of natural and cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation values. The establishment of protected areas reflects society's values and the value that citizens place on heritage preservation. Park users should know that Koksilah River Park is set aside to protect these values.

Humans in the Landscape

BC Parks needs to connect park visitors with the other humans who have lived in the landscape. Koksilah River Park has evidence of First Nations' presence. Koksilah River Park communications programs will seek to inform the visitor about First Nations and Post-Contact history.

Protecting the Resource and Yourself

One of the key themes that is of particular importance to Koksilah River Park is that of protecting the park resources and the visitor. Among the messages that will be presented are those around trail etiquette, campfires and low impact camping. Safety and procedures in the presence of wildlife and around the river's rock cliffs will also be presented.

Objectives: *To promote an understanding of and appreciation for the natural and cultural values of the park and the surrounding area.*

To provide visitors with natural and cultural heritage information that will enhance their respectful use and enjoyment of the park' features.

To instill a sense of stewardship toward the park and to strengthen partnerships with parties that have interests and goals that are compatible with the mandate of BC Parks.

Strategies:

- Develop self-guiding/interpretive pamphlets/maps for specific trails that provide information on natural and cultural values.
- Include natural and cultural heritage information, as appropriate, in park signs, publications and the BC Parks Website.
- Liaise with interest groups, sponsors, and other stakeholders to generate interest and mobilize volunteer resources to assist in achieving education objectives.
- Explore opportunities for conservation groups to be involved in stewardship activities and park interpretation tours.

Communications Strategy

Communications will play a role in encouraging visitors and activities that are compatible with preservation ecological integrity in the park. Additional information provided to the public will discourage uses that negatively impact the park, and help to educate the public about the importance of protecting natural and cultural values.

Koksilah River Provincial Park provides an opportunity to deliver a number of key messages. These include: the natural and cultural history of the park, the role of BC Parks in conserving and protecting special places and the importance of public involvement in the establishment of protected areas.

Objectives:

To enhance the public's awareness of Koksilah River Provincial Park as an area conserving, protecting and respecting natural and cultural values and biodiversity.

To communicate a sense of stewardship towards the park.

To strengthen partnerships with parties that have interests and goals in and adjacent to the park that are compatible with the mandate of BC Parks.

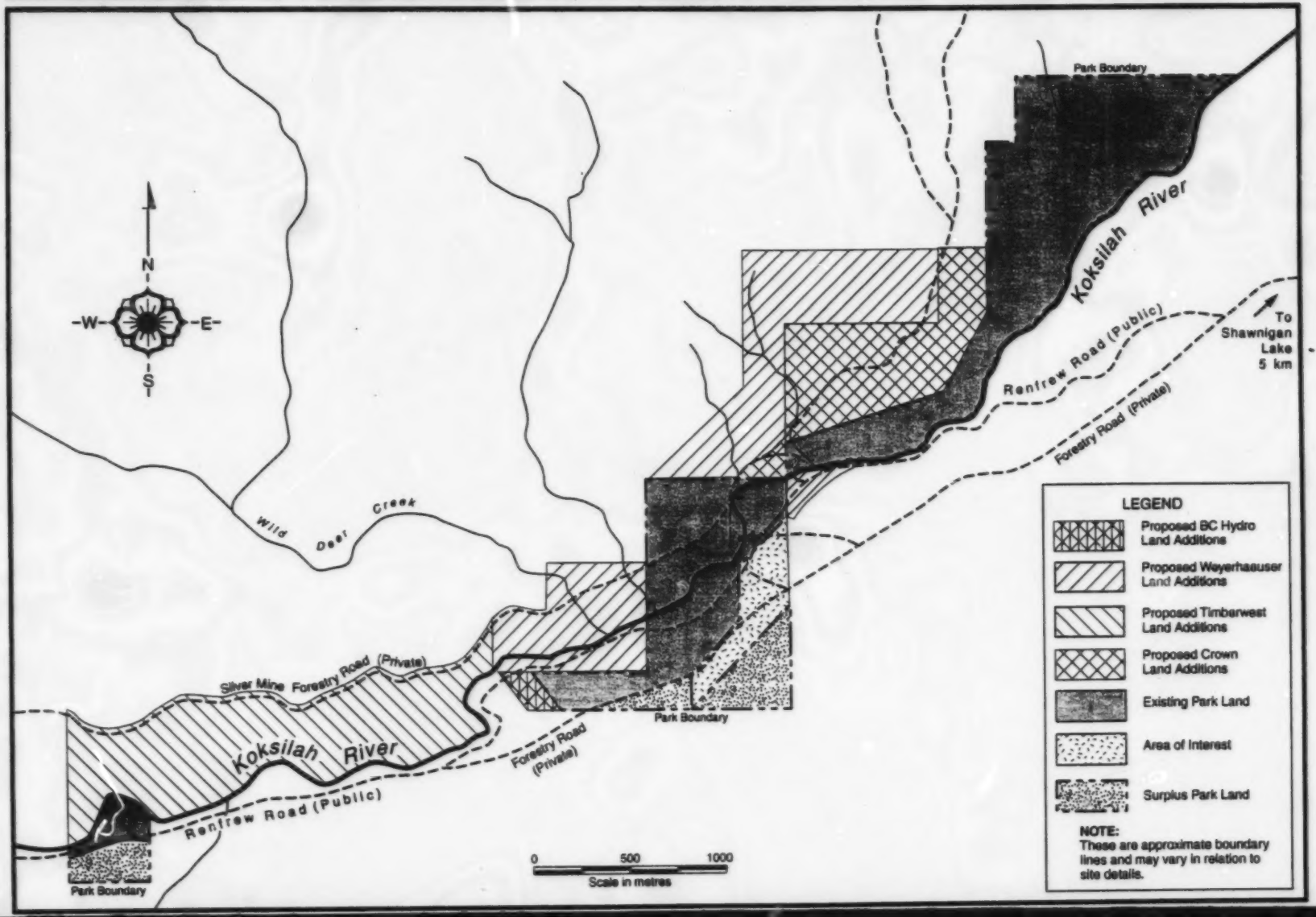
To encourage public involvement in the park and highlight the role the public plays in the development of the park system.

To create an awareness of the role of the park in achieving the goals of the park system.

Strategies:

- Liaise with interest groups, adjacent landowners, potential corporate sponsors, government agencies and other stakeholders to generate interest and mobilize volunteer resources to assist in achieving park management objectives.
- Inform the general public and park visitors about the park with appropriate publications, brochures, website information, park information signs and local media.
- Develop a park information package that explains the reasons for park designation, and outlines key attributes of the park, such as its common plant and animal species, boundaries and recreation policies and appropriate visitor behaviour. This package will promote protection of the natural environment.
- Publish the park management plan on the BC Parks Website and in printed form.

Koksilah River Provincial Park - Proposed Boundary Adjustments



Plan Implementation

High Priority Strategies

General Park Management

- Continue the volunteer Stewardship agreement with the Koksilah Park Society, to assist in protecting the park's conservation and recreation values. Various components of the BC Parks Volunteer Program may also be appropriate to interested individuals, including the Park Watch and Conservation Steward Programs.
- Finalize the consultation process with owners of adjacent land, local government, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and interest groups about access management proposal.

Natural and Cultural Values Management

- Encourage preservation of significant natural and cultural sites in the vicinity of Koksilah River, including a rare pocket grassland.
- Continue negotiations with Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd., Cowichan Tribes, Ministry of Forests and other government agencies to provide protection for the rare grassland meadow located adjacent to the park.
- Develop a land acquisition and disposition program based upon the results of the above noted land evaluation process.
- Undertake the initiation of park boundary adjustments along the river corridor that consider additions and deletions to the park.
- Continue meetings with representatives of the Cowichan Tribes to develop an understanding of common values with BC Parks and discuss possible opportunities for First Nation's involvement in aspects of the park's management.
- Ensure that First Nations cultural and spiritual values associated with the park are protected.
- Investigate the history of the area (e.g. logging, mining, early settlement).

Visitor Recreation Management

- Develop self-guiding/interpretive pamphlets/maps for specific trails that provide information on natural and cultural values.
- Prepare a *Recreation and Trail Plan* to determine planning priorities, including:
  - ⇒ a review of existing park trails and linkages;
  - ⇒ a review of horseback riding options;
  - ⇒ a review of cycling and mountain biking options;
  - ⇒ a review of fishing options;
  - ⇒ a review of campground development configuration and local options.

- Establish a Trails Advisory Committee in consultation with the Koksilah Park Society Stewardship Agreement, to recommend trail development and trail closures to BC Parks.
- Continue to prevent vehicular access into Lot 191 to assist in preserving its natural values. In conjunction, provide a day-use parking lot to encourage foot traffic and increased low impact usage of the site, such as nature appreciation and picnicking.
- Liaise with interest groups, sponsors and other stakeholders to generate interest and utilize volunteer resources to assist in achieving education objectives.
- Explore opportunities for conservation groups to be involved in stewardship activities and park interpretation tours.

Task or Project Strategies

General Park Management

- Identify appropriate contiguous lands to acquire by enlisting the assistance of interest groups and agencies to more fully identify, categorize and map adjacent locations with sensitive habitats and scenic or otherwise special features.
- Develop a land acquisition and disposition program based upon the results of the above noted land evaluation process. This would include reviewing existing parklands that may be deemed surplus (e.g. south portion of Lot 191 and triangular portion south of Bear Creek Forestry Road) and identifying potential lands with higher ecological and cultural values.
- Inform the Vancouver Island Interagency Management Committee (IAMC) about proposed park boundary adjustments and land acquisition initiative.
- Cooperate with the CVRD, other agencies and interest groups in preparing a *Regional Recreation Plan* that supports and fulfils the vision for the park and the Koksilah River.
- Develop a park information package that explains the reasons for park designation, and that outlines key attributes of the park, such as its common plant and animal species, boundaries and recreation policies and appropriate visitor behaviour. This package will promote protection of the natural environment.
- Maintain existing recreation facilities and prepare a Recreation and Trail Plan that will address any future facility development.

Natural and Cultural Values Management

- Cooperate with the Cowichan Tribes in developing an information package that outlines traditional aboriginal land uses and culture. BC Parks will seek cooperation from the Cowichan Tribes and assist their representatives in gathering archaeological, heritage and cultural information that may be important for conservation purposes.
- Conduct a comprehensive plant and wildlife inventory and determine the distribution of old growth within the park; encourage research studies of plant and animal communities / species found within the park.
- Update a *Fire Management Plan*, in consultation with the Ministry of Forests, as per the inter-ministerial protocol agreement.
- Investigate working with Ministry of Forests and MELP on spatially locating old growth management areas (OGMAS) in the South Island Forest District and within Koksilah River

Provincial Park.

Visitor Recreation Management

- Collaborate with the CVRD, other agencies and interest groups in preparing a Regional Recreation Plan that supports and fulfills the vision for the park.
- Review cycling and mountain biking options as part of the *Recreation and Trail Plan* and Trail Advisory Committee recommendations.
- Collaborate with and provide assistance to agencies, such as the CVRD and interest groups in developing a *Greenways Study* and / or a *Trails Master Plan* for the Koksilah River.
- Encourage and support the Trans Canada Trail Foundation in establishing a trail system within and in the vicinity of the park.
- Send a letter to local mountain biking and cycling associations to inform them directly of BC Parks' policy, upon completion of the *Recreation and Trail Plan*.
- Publish the park management plan on the BC Parks Website (www.bcparks.gov.bc.ca) and in printed form.
- If the outcome of the *Recreation and Trail Plan* recommends it, provide additional walk-in campsites in a location that will have minimal impact on the natural environment.
- Ensure that an inappropriate level of recreation activity is not being encouraged, particularly in sensitive habitats.
- Identify opportunities and methods to provide visitors with information about the park's natural and cultural resources and adjacent special features such as the Kinsol Trestle.
- Gate Renfrew Road at both boundaries in the main section of the park.
- Erect a "Through Traffic Keep Left / Right" directional sign at both junction points of Renfrew and Bear Creek Roads to direct traffic to its destination.

Ongoing or Monitoring Strategies

General Park Management

- Inform the general public and park visitors about the park with appropriate publications, brochures, park information signs and local media.
- Liaise with interest groups, adjacent landowners, potential corporate sponsors, government agencies and other stakeholders to generate interest and mobilize volunteer resources to assist in achieving park management objectives.
- Continue to build upon the working relationship that has been established with CVRD staff and LUCO (Trans Canada Trail) staff.
- Assist, collaborate or partner with the CVRD on park planning projects that are mutually beneficial.
- Continue to work with owners of adjacent land, including the Ministry of Forests, forest companies and private landowners, to promote and maintain the visual integrity of lands surrounding the park.
- Maintain liaison with owners of adjacent private land regarding the effects of public recreation on their property.
- Explore potential opportunities for corporate / other land donations.

- Liaise with post-secondary institutions, government agencies, interest groups, First Nations, funding agencies and corporate sponsors to unite researchers with funding for projects.
- Publicize research findings that are of interest to the general public in a park brochure and on informational signage within the park.
- Implement Emergency Measures Plan for the park as required.
- Encourage non-profit organizations to apply for funds from corporate and / or government program sources. As opportunities arise, jointly complete projects that fulfil mutual mandates.
- Seek volunteer, First Nations and corporate assistance in providing park education signs, interpretive displays, programs, tours and other means of providing information to visitors.
- Prepare *Annual Management Plans* to implement management strategies. Management strategies will utilize the Vision Statement of this *management plan* as a planning framework and priorities for development will be based on defined objectives.
- Link future park and regional trail system development with the Trans Canada Trail project.
- Explore opportunities for conservation groups to be involved in stewardship activities and park interpretation tours.
- Provide a management presence in the park throughout the year through visits by staff, contractors and/or volunteers.
- Promote volunteer "Park Watch" program to provide information and advice as well as observe, record and report infractions.

Natural and Cultural Resource Management

- Encourage preservation of significant natural and cultural sites in the vicinity of Koksilah River, including a rare pocket grassland.
- Work closely with the Cowichan Tribes to review those identified areas of special spiritual and cultural interest within the park, and discuss how BC Parks can protect these aboriginal cultural features.
- Encourage the Cowichan Tribes to participate in the stewardship of the park.
- Continue with revegetation initiatives and keep park visitors away from newly planted areas by erecting fencing and signage. Install park signs, increase park monitoring, and erect fencing immediately adjacent to Burnt Bridge to discourage continued landscape desecration by mountain bikers.
- Ensure sensitive wildlife habitats and rare and endangered species are protected when developing recreation facilities, e.g. trails and visitor management strategies.
- Encourage inventory research of terrestrial and aquatic species to provide information on the presence of both rare and endangered species.
- Enlist the participation of interest groups and individuals in the inventory and ongoing monitoring of natural and cultural values.
- Work closely with user groups such as mountain biking and cycling associations to acquaint them with the ecological importance and sensitivity of many of the habitats in or adjacent to the park, to ensure their cooperation in protecting the integrity of the park.
- Include natural and cultural heritage information, as appropriate, in park signs, publications and cultural values.

Visitor Recreation Management

- Monitor changes in day use visitor levels and demands on facilities.
- Provide additional parking, toilets and picnic tables as necessary within the Intensive Recreation Zone.
- Design and situate park facilities in a manner that preserves the park's visual attractiveness.
- Situate visitor facilities in locations that do not jeopardize water quality.
- Based on recommendations from the *Recreation and Trail Plan*, determine the role that the park can play in providing habitat for fishing in the Koksilah River.
- Seek the assistance of volunteers and corporate/agency sponsorships in providing park facilities for visitors.
- Liaise on a regular basis with representatives of park interest groups to ensure that management of the park benefits from local input.
- Re-orient access through the park on the south side to improve traffic flow.
- Continue restricting motorized vehicle access to the north side of the park at Burnt Bridge.
- Encourage MOTH to upgrade Renfrew Road (pave surface) to meet future use demands (i.e. TCT impact) and local/regional development and growth.
- Based on Trail Advisory committee recommendations limit trail uses to those compatible with conservation. Horseback riding will only be acceptable on designated trails within the park.
- Install additional in-park signage to communicate appropriate trail use and activities.
- Maintain up to date marketing and promotion information on the BC Parks Website, and in park publications, brochures, tourist guides and local agencies' reports.
- Distribute marketing information through the Website, District Office and cooperatively through other government agencies, and local and regional tourist offices.
- Provide awareness and pre-trip planning information, including adequate maps and park safety and security information, BC Parks Website, park brochure and other appropriate tourist-oriented and government publications.
- Maintain effective highway directional signage, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.
- Provide orientation information on park signs located at key orientation nodes (arrival, parking and trailheads), in appropriate publications and on the BC Parks Website. Information should include locations of accepted recreational activities, trails, facilities, features and park regulations.
- Inform the general public and park visitors about the park with appropriate publications, brochures, park information signs and local media.
- Encourage volunteers to participate in a variety of park projects under the direction of BC Parks staff.

Appendix A

Protected Areas Strategy Goals and Guiding Principles

Goals

Goal 1: Representativeness

To protect viable examples of the natural diversity of the province that are representative of major terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, the characteristic habitats, hydrology and landforms, and the characteristic heritage values of each ecosection.

Goal 2: Special Features

To protect the special natural, cultural heritage and recreation features of the province, including rare and endangered species and critical habitats, outstanding or unique botanical, zoological, geological and paleontological features, outstanding or fragile cultural heritage features, and outstanding outdoor recreational features such as trails.

Guiding Principles

- The first priority in the use and management of protected areas is to protect their ecological viability and integrity.

- Recreational activities, facilities, services and cultural heritage policies in protected area must be compatible with each area's objectives and the long-term protection of ecological viability and integrity, while enhancing the public's experience of the natural and cultural heritage of the province.

BC Parks Recreation Goals

Goal 1 **Outdoor Recreation Holiday Destination Opportunities**
To provide park attractions which serve as or improve key destinations for outdoor recreation holidays.

Goal 2 **Tourism Travel Route Opportunities**
To provide parks and services which enhance tourism travel routes.

Goal 3 **Regional Recreation Opportunities**
To ensure access to local outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents of this province.

Goal 4 **Backcountry Recreation Opportunities**
To provide outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities throughout the province.

Appendix B

BC Parks Management Planning

Zone Descriptions

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Protected Areas Management Planning Zone Descriptions			
	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment	
Objective	To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.	To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access.	Generally low.
Means of Access	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Motorised (powerboats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-motorised (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted.	Various; may require special access permit.
Location	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanised means such as boat or plane.	Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.
Size of Zone	Small - usually less than 2,000 ha.	Can range from small to large.	Small - usually less than 2000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).
Recreation Opportunities	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialised activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialised activities.	Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots; parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorised access - e.g., docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.	Interpretative facilities only - resources are to be protected.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible, facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	None - resources to be maintained unimpaired.
Management Guidelines	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).	High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.
Examples of Zoning	Campground in Rathtrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.	Botanical Beach tidepools within Juan de Fuca Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.

Protected Areas Management Planning Zone Descriptions		
	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Objective	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorised activities will be allowed.
Use Level	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
Means of Access	Non-mechanised & non-motorised - except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).	Non-mechanised & non-motorised (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).
Location	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis.	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Size of Zone	Large - greater than 5,000 hectares.	Large - greater than 5,000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features.
Recreation Opportunities	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing).
Facilities	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g., dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
Examples of Zoning	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area.

Appendix C

List of Bird Species in Koksilah River Provincial Park and Vicinity

Common Name	Breeds in Subject Area	Seasonal Occurrence
American Dipper	yes	uncommon year round
American Goldfinch	yes	common mid-April to mid-Sept. fairly common mid-Sept. to Oct. uncommon Nov. to mid-April
American Robin	yes	common year round
Bald Eagle	yes	fairly common Oct. to mid-May uncommon mid-May to Sept.
Band-tailed Pigeon	yes	fairly common May to mid-Oct. uncommon April and mid-Oct. to Dec. rare Jan. to March
Barn Swallow	yes	common mid-April to mid-Sept. fairly common late Sept. uncommon early April and early Oct.
Barred Owl	yes	uncommon year round
Belted Kingfisher	yes	common year round
Bewick's Wren	yes	common year round
Black Swift	no	fairly common early June rare late May and July to Sept.
Black-throated Gray Warbler	yes	fairly common May to Sept. rare April and Oct. to mid-Nov.
Blue Grouse	yes	common April to Aug. rare Sept. to March
Brown Creeper	yes	fairly common year round
Brown-headed Cowbird	yes	common mid-April to mid-Sept. fairly common late Sept. to Oct. uncommon Nov. to mid-April
California Quail	yes	common April to Aug. fairly common Sept. to March

Common Name	Breeds in Subject Area	Seasonal Occurrence
Cedar Waxwing	yes	common June to mid-Nov. uncommon late Nov. rare Dec. to May
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	yes	common year round
Cliff Swallow	yes	fairly common May to July rare April and Aug.
Common Merganser	yes	fairly common year round
Common Nighthawk	yes	fairly common mid-June to Aug. rare early June and September
Common Raven	yes	fairly common year round
Common Yellowthroat	yes	common April to Sept. rare Oct. to Feb.
Cooper's Hawk	yes	fairly common July to April uncommon May to June
Dark-eyed Junco	yes	common year round
Downy Woodpecker	yes	common year round
Evening Grossbeak	yes	fairly common May to July uncommon Aug. to April
Fox Sparrow	no	fairly common Oct. to April uncommon late Sept. rare May to early Sept.
Glaucous-winged Gull	yes	common year round
Golden-crowned Kinglet	yes	common Oct. to April fairly common May to Sept.
Golden-crowned Sparrow	yes	common mid-Sept. to April rare May to mid-Sept.
Golden Eagle	yes	rare year round
Gray Jay	yes	uncommon Oct. to Feb. rare March to Sept.
Great Blue Heron	yes	common year round
Great Horned Owl	yes	fairly common mid-Nov. to Feb. uncommon March to mid-Nov.

Common Name	Breeds in Subject Area	Seasonal Occurrence
Hairy Woodpecker	yes	fairly common year round
Hammond's Flycatcher	yes	fairly common May to Aug. uncommon Sept.
Hermit Thrush	no	fairly common April and Oct. uncommon May and Nov. to March
Hooded Merganser	yes	fairly common July to April uncommon May to June
House Wren	yes	fairly common May to Aug. uncommon late April rare Sept. to mid-Oct.
Hutton's Vireo	yes	fairly common March and April uncommon May to Feb.
Lincoln's Sparrow	no	fairly common mid-April to mid-May also fairly common Sept. to Oct. uncommon Nov. to mid-April rare Aug.
MacGillivray's Warbler	yes	common May to mid-Sept. rare late April and late Sept. to Oct.
Merlin	yes	uncommon Aug. to March rare April to July
Mew Gull	no	common mid-July to March fairly common early Apr., early July uncommon mid-April to June
Northern Flicker	yes	common year round
Northern Goshawk	yes	rare year round
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	yes	fairly common April to July uncommon March and Aug.
Northern Saw-whet Owl	yes	uncommon year round
Northwestern Crow	yes	common year round
Olive-sided Flycatcher	yes	common mid-May to Aug. uncommon Sept.

Common Name	Breeds in Subject Area	Seasonal Occurrence
Orange-crowned Warbler	yes	common April to Sept. uncommon Oct. rare March and Oct.
Osprey	yes	fairly common April to Sept. rare March and Oct.
Pileated Woodpecker	yes	uncommon year round
Pine Siskin	yes	common year round
Purple Finch	yes	common year round
Red-breasted Nuthatch	yes	fairly common year round
Red-breasted Sapsucker	yes	uncommon year round
Red Crossbill	yes	fairly common year round
Red-eyed Vireo	yes	uncommon June to Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk	yes	common year round
Red-winged Blackbird	yes	common year round
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	no	common March to mid-April fairly common mid-Sept. to Feb. rare mid-April to mid-Sept.
Ruffed Grouse	yes	uncommon year round
Rufflehead	yes	common mid-Oct. to mid-April fairly common mid-April to mid-May rare mid-May to mid-Oct.
Rufous Hummingbird	yes	common April to mid-July fairly common mid-July to Aug. rare March and Sept. to Dec.
Rufous-sided Towhee	yes	common year round
Savannah Sparrow	yes	common April to mid-Oct. fairly common late Oct. uncommon Nov. to Dec. rare Jan. to March
Sharp-shinned Hawk	no	common Sept. to Oct. fairly common Nov. to April rare May to Aug.

Common Name	Breeds in Subject Area	Seasonal Occurrence
Solitary Vireo	yes	fairly common mid-April to Aug. rare mid-March to mid-April
Song Sparrow	yes	common year round
Spotted Sandpiper	yes	fairly common May to Oct. rare November to April
Steller's Jay	yes	fairly common year round
Swainson's Thrush	yes	common mid-May to Aug. rare early May and Sept. to early Oct.
Townsend's Solitaire	yes	rare year round
Townsend's Warbler	yes	common May to Sept. uncommon April rare Oct. to March
Tree Swallow	yes	fairly common March to July rare Feb. and Aug.
Turkey Vulture	yes	common Sept. to mid-Oct. fairly common April to Aug. rare mid-Oct. to March
Varied Thrush	yes	common Dec. to Feb. fairly common March to Nov.
Vaux's Swift	yes	fairly common late May, early Sept. uncommon June to Aug. rare early May and late Sept.
Violet-green Swallow	yes	common April to July fairly common March uncommon Aug. to Sept. rare Feb. and Oct. to Dec.
Warbling Vireo	yes	fairly common May to mid-Sept. uncommon late April and late Sept.
Water Pipit	no	common mid-Sept. to mid-Nov. fairly common April uncommon mid-Nov. to March rare May

Common Name	Breeds in Subject Area	Seasonal Occurrence
Western Flycatcher	yes	common May to mid-Sept. fairly common late April rare late Sept.
Western Screech Owl	yes	fairly common Feb. to mid-June uncommon mid-June to Jan.
Western Tanager	yes	fairly common late May uncommon June to Sept. rare May and Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow	yes	common mid-April to mid-Sept. fairly common mid-Sept. to mid-April
Willow Flycatcher	yes	fairly common late May to Aug. uncommon Sept. rare early May
Wilson's Warbler	yes	common May to mid-Sept. rare late Sept. to Jan.
Winter Wren	yes	common year round
Yellow Warbler	yes	common May to mid-Sept. rare late April, late Sept. and Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler	yes	common April to mid-Oct. uncommon late Oct. to Dec. rare Jan. to March

This bird species list was supplied by David Aldcroft, and was prepared by members of the Cowichan Valley Natural History Society.